(a) the present status of Indo-Iran gas pipeline project;

(b) whether talks on the proposed Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) pipeline has been progressing very slowly;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any discussion was held in this regard with the President of Iran during his recent visit to India;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether Iran is willing for a change in the delivery point of gas for IPI pipeline; and

(g) the time by which this gas pipeline agreement is likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) India is pursuing the import of natural gas from Iran through Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) Gas Pipeline Project. Various important issues, *viz.*, pricing of gas, delivery point of gas, project structure, payment of transportation tariff and transit fees for passage of natural gas through Pakistan, etc. are under discussion amongst the participating countries.

Such multilateral projects involve protracted discussions, as all the aspects have to be carefully examined and deliberated upon to the satisfaction of the participating countries to protect each country's interests and to avoid any problems in the future in the successful operation of the project.

(d) and (e) In the meeting held between the President of Islamic Republic of Iran and Prime Minister on April 29, 2008, the modalities of pursuing the project were discussed.

(f) The issue is under discussion amongst the participating countries.

(g) Finalization of the agreement can be achieved when satisfactory resolution of the issues under discussion is reached by the countries participating in the project, *viz.*, Iran, Pakistan and India.

Production of APM Gas by ONGC

802. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) has reduced the production of gas to be sold under Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM);

(b) if so, the details thereof?

(c) the details of APM gas produced in the last three years; and

(d) the causes for declining and the steps taken by Government to increase the production of APM gas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) The details of APM gas supplied by ONGC for the last three years *i.e.* 2005-06 to 2007-08 is as under:-

Million Metric Standard Cubic Metres per Day

	(MMSCMD)
	APM Qty.
2005-06	46.185
2006-07	43.244
2007-08	38.773

(d) Most of the producing fields of ONGC are old and have crossed their plateau period of production and entered the natural decline phase (a natural process in the production life of oil and gas fields globally). Therefore, availability of APM gas from ONGC is showing a declining trend.

Oil reservoir in the country

†803.SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to set up reservoir for petroleum products in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of progress made therein, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) The Government decided in September, 2005 to set up a Strategic Crude Oil Reserve of 5 Million Metric Tonne (MMT) capacity at 3 locations *viz.*, Vizag (1.0 MMT), Mangalore (1.5 MMT) and Padur, Udipi (2.5 MMT) through Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited (ISPRL), which is 100% subsidiary of Oil Industry Development Board (OIDB). This strategic storage of crude oil would be in addition to the existing storages of crude oil and petroleum products with the oil companies. Crude oil from this Reserve will be released by the Government-appointed High Power Committee, to deal with any short-term disruptions in crude oil supplies due to natural calamity or any unforeseen global event like war etc.

In Visakhapatnam, the underground civil works are in progress and the tendering activities for the above ground process facilities are on. **In Mangalore**, the land has been acquired from Mangalore Special Economic Zone Limited (MSEZL) and the tendering activities for the underground civil works are in progress. **In Padur**, supplementary investigations are in progress to establish the optimum capacity of the reservoir. Preliminary Notification for land acquisition through Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board (KIADB) is under process.

Application under RTI with IOC

†804.SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.